

“The American Dream” by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Selection Test A

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- ___ 1. What historic document does King quote to express “the American dream”?
 - A. the Constitution of the United States
 - B. the Declaration of Independence
 - C. the Emancipation Proclamation
 - D. the Mayflower Compact

- ___ 2. How does King define the American dream?
 - A. Every person has a right to a job.
 - B. Each person should live in America.
 - C. All people have equal rights.
 - D. All people should have the right to vote.

- ___ 3. King wants readers to act morally for the good of all. What is King’s goal called?
 - A. inspiration
 - B. a statement
 - C. author’s purpose
 - D. author’s opinion

- ___ 4. King repeats a story about traveling fast by airplane. What tone does King convey to readers through the story?
 - A. an angry tone
 - B. a logical tone
 - C. a serious tone
 - D. a humorous tone

- ___ 5. What is King’s tone in the following sentence?

The American dream reminds us that every man is heir to the legacy of worthiness.

 - A. hope
 - B. irony
 - C. peace
 - D. despair

- ___ 6. Why does King describe how planes have made distances between countries seem smaller?
 - A. He is encouraging inventors to design even faster modes of travel.
 - B. He would like to see more people have the opportunity to travel.
 - C. He wants to make the point that the world has become like a neighborhood.
 - D. He wants to show his pride in American creativity.

- ___ 7. According to King, what must America eliminate to remain a “first-class nation”?
- A. politicians
 - B. inventors
 - C. second-class citizens
 - D. third-class travel
- ___ 8. King says that Americans talk about personal freedom, but that they practiced slavery and segregation. What has a sociologist called this paradox, according to King?
- A. the American dilemma
 - B. America’s tragic past
 - C. a blight on the nation
 - D. universalism
- ___ 9. What does King say will make the American dream come true?
- A. making speeches
 - B. learning about other cultures
 - C. inventing more high-tech solutions
 - D. thinking of everyone as brothers
- ___ 10. What does King fear will happen if Americans do not respond to his pleas to live in peace?
- A. We will be forced to go to war.
 - B. We will perish as fools.
 - C. Many people will leave the country.
 - D. Neighborhoods will disappear.
- ___ 11. Which word does *not* describe King’s style in “The American Dream”?
- A. direct
 - B. serious
 - C. educated
 - D. uneducated

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 12. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to *antithesis*?
- A. same
 - B. opaque
 - C. opposite
 - D. separate

- ___ 13. In which sentence is *devoid* used correctly?
- A. She filled devoid with ice cream.
 - B. A desert is devoid of water.
 - C. The movie was suspenseful and devoid.
 - D. He asked the customer to devoid the sale.
- ___ 14. In which sentence is a reflexive pronoun used *incorrectly*?
- A. You and myself are best friends.
 - B. You wrote a note to yourself.
 - C. I can get to the office myself.
 - D. We baked the cake ourselves.
- ___ 15. In which sentence is a reflexive pronoun used *incorrectly*?
- A. They gave themselves no time for lunch.
 - B. I'm going to miss yourself when you go.
 - C. Patrick taught himself to play the clarinet.
 - D. Penny saw herself in the mirror.

Essay

16. Write a brief essay in which you explain what view, or opinion, King wants you to accept in "The American Dream." Then, tell whether you think King accomplished what he set out to do in this speech, and give examples to support your evaluation of the speech.
17. Write an essay in which you discuss King's explanation of how the world has become smaller. Then, decide whether or not you agree with King that a smaller world means we have more opportunities to treat other countries as "neighbors." Defend your opinion with specific reasons.